

# RAC

- RA'CER. *n. f.* [from *race*.] Runner; one that contends in speed.  
His stumbling founder'd jade can trot as high  
As any other pegasus can fly;  
So the dull eel moves nimbler in the mud,  
Than all the swift-finn'd racers of the flood. *Dorset.*  
A poet's form the plac'd before their eyes,  
And bade the nimblest racer seize the prize. *Pope.*
- RA'CINESS. *n. f.* [from *racy*.] The quality of being racy.
- RACK. *n. f.* [*racke*, Dutch, from *racken*, to stretch.]  
1. An engine to torture.  
Vex not his ghost; O let him pass! he hates him  
That would, upon the rack of this rough world,  
Stretch him out longer. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
Did ever any man upon the rack afflict himself, because he  
had received a cross answer from his mistress. *Taylor.*  
Let them feel the whip, the sword, the fire,  
And in the tortures of the rack expire. *Addison.*  
2. Torture; extreme pain.  
A fit of the stone puts a king to the rack, and makes him  
as miserable as it does the meanest subject. *Temple.*  
A cool behaviour sets him on the rack, and is interpreted  
as an instance of aversion or indifference. *Addison.*  
3. Any instrument by which extension is performed.  
These bows, being somewhat like the long bows in use  
amongst us, were bent only by a man's immediate strength,  
without the help of any bander or rack that are used to  
others. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*  
4. A distaff; commonly a portable distaff, from which they  
spin by twirling a ball.  
The sisters turn the wheel,  
Empty the woolly rack, and fill the reel. *Dryden.*  
5. [*Racke*, Dutch, a track.] The clouds as they are driven by  
the wind.  
That, which is now a horse, even with a thought  
The rack dissolves, and makes it indistinct  
As water is in water. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*  
The great globe itself,  
Yea, all, which it inherits, shall dissolve;  
And, like this insubstantial pageant, faded,  
Leave not a rack behind. *Shakefp. Tempest.*  
We often see against some form,  
A silence in the heav'n's, the rack stand still,  
The bold winds speechless, and the orb below  
As hush as death. *Shakefp. Hamlet.*  
The winds in the upper region, which move the clouds  
above, which we call the rack, and are not perceived below,  
pass without noise. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
As wintry winds contending in the sky,  
With equal force of lungs their titles try;  
They rage, they roar: the doubtful rack of heav'n  
Stands without motion, and the tide undriv'n. *Dryden.*  
6. [*Racca*, the occiput, Saxon; *racca*, Ilandick, hinges or  
joints.] A neck of mutton cut for the table.  
7. A grate.  
8. A wooden grate in which hay is placed for cattle.  
Their bulls they send to pastures far,  
Or hills, or feed them at full racks within. *May's Virgil.*  
The best way to feed cattle with it, is to put it in racks,  
because of the great quantity they tread down. *Mortimer.*  
He bid the nimble hours  
Bring forth the steeds; the nimble hours obey:  
From their full racks the generous steeds retire. *Addison.*  
9. Arrack; a spirituous liquor. See ARRACK.  
To RACK. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To stream as clouds before  
the wind.  
Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun,  
Not separated with the racking clouds,  
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky. *Shakefp.*  
To RACK. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To torment by the rack.  
Hold, O dreadful Sir,  
You will not rack an innocent old man. *Dryden and Lee.*  
2. To torment; to harass.  
Th' apostate angel, though in pain,  
Vaunting aloud, but rack'd with deep despair. *Milton.*  
3. To harass by exaction.  
The landlords there shamefully rack their tenants, exacting  
of them, besides his covenants, what he pleaseth. *Spenser.*  
The commons ha't thou rack'd; the clergy's bags  
Are lank and lean with thy extortions. *Shakefp.*  
He took possession of his just estate,  
Nor rack'd his tenants with increase of rent. *Dryden.*  
4. They racking and stretching scripture further than by God  
was meant, are drawn into sundry inconveniences. *Hooker.*  
The wisest among the heathens rack'd their wits, and cast  
about every way, managing every little argument to the ut-  
most advantage. *Tillotson's Sermons.*  
5. To stretch; to extend.  
Nor have I money nor commodity  
To raise a present sum;  
Try what my credit can in Venice do,  
That shall be rack'd even to the uttermost. *Shakefp.*

# RAD

6. To defecate; to draw off from the lees. I know not whence  
this word is derived in this sense; *rein*, German, is clear,  
pure, whence our word to *rinse*; this is perhaps of the same  
race.  
It is common to draw wine or beer from the lees, which  
we call racking, whereby it will clarify much the sooner. *Bacon.*  
Some roll their cask about the cellar to mix it with the  
lees, and, after a few days resettlement, rack it off. *Mortimer.*  
RACK-RENT. *n. f.* [*rack* and *rent*.] Rent raised to the utter-  
most.  
Have poor families been ruined by rack-rents, paid for the  
lands of the church? *Swift's Miscellanies.*  
RACK-RENT. *n. f.* [*rack* and *rent*.] One who pays the  
utmost rent.  
Though this be a quarter of his yearly income, and the  
publick tax takes away one hundred; yet this influences not  
the yearly rent of the land, which the rack-renter or under-  
tenant pays. *Locke.*  
RACKET. *n. f.* [of uncertain derivation; M. Casaubon derives  
it, after his custom, from *gaxia*, the dash of fluctuation  
against the shore.]  
1. An irregular clattering noise.  
That the tennis court keeper knows better than I, it is a  
low ebb of linen with thee, when thou keep'st not racket  
there. *Shakefp. Henry IV. p. ii.*  
2. A confused talk, in burlesque language.  
Ambition hath removed her lodging, and lives the next  
door to faction, where they keep such a racket, that the whole  
parish is disturbed and every night in an uproar. *Swift.*  
3. [*Raquette*, Fr.] The instrument with which players strike  
the ball. Whence perhaps all the other senses.  
When we have match'd our rackets to these balls,  
We will in France play a set,  
Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard. *Shakefp.*  
The body, into which impression is made, either can yield  
backward or it cannot: if it can yield backward, then the  
impression made is a motion; as we see a stroke with a  
racket upon a ball, makes it fly from it. *Digby on the Soul.*  
He talks much of the motives to do and forbear, how they  
determine a reasonable man, as if he were no more than a  
tennis-ball, to be tossed to and fro by the rackets of the second  
causes. *Bramhall against Hobbs.*
- RA'CKING. *n. f.*  
Racking pace of a horse is the same as an amble, only that  
it is a swifter time and a shorter tread; and though it does  
not rid so much ground, yet it is something easier. *Far, Diet.*
- RA'CKOON. *n. f.*  
The raccoon is a New England animal, like a badger, hav-  
ing a tail like a fox, being clothed with a thick and deep  
fur: it sleeps in the day time in a hollow tree, and goes out  
at nights, when the moon shines, to feed on the sea fide, where  
it is hunted by dogs. *Bailey.*
- RA'CY. *adj.* [perhaps from *rayz*, Spanish, a root.] Strong;  
flavorous; tasting of the foil.  
Rich racy verses in which we  
The foil, from which they come, taste, smell, and see. *Cowley.*  
From his brain that Helicon distill,  
Whose racy liquor did his offspring fill. *Denham.*  
The cyder at first is very luscious, but if ground more  
early, it is more racy. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
The hospitable sage, in sign  
Of social welcome, mix'd the racy wine,  
Late from the mellowing cask restor'd to light,  
By ten long years refin'd, and rosy bright. *Pope.*  
RAD. the old pret. of read. *Spenser.*
- RAD. *rad*, and *rad*, differing only in dialect, signify coun-  
sel; as Conrad, powerful or skilful in counsel; Ethelred, a  
noble counsellor; Rodbert, eminent for counsel: Eubulus  
and Thrasylbulus have almost the same sense. *Giffen.*
- RA'DDOCK, or ruddock. *n. f.* A bird.  
The raddock would,  
With charitable bill, bring thee all this. *Shakefp.*
- RA'DIANCE. *n. f.* [*radiare*, Lat.] Sparkling lustre; glitter.
- RA'DIANCY. *n. f.* [*radiare*, Lat.]  
By the sacred radiance of the sun,  
By all the operations of the orbs,  
Here I disclaim all my paternal care. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*  
Whether there be not too high an apprehension above its  
natural radiance, is not without just doubt; however it be  
granted a very splendid gum, and whose sparkles may some-  
what resemble the glances of fire. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
The son  
Girt with omnipotence, with radiance crown'd  
Of majesty divine. *Milton.*  
A glory surpassing the sun in its greatest radiance, which,  
though we cannot describe, will bear some resemblance.  
The rapid radiance instantaneous strikes  
Th' illumin'd mountain. *Thomson's Spring.*  
RADIANCY. *n. f.*

# RAD

- RA'DIANT. *adj.* [*radians*, Lat.] Shining; brightly sparkling;  
emitting rays.  
There was a fun of gold radiant upon the top, and before,  
a small cherub of gold with wings displayed. *Bacon.*  
Mark what radiant state she spreads,  
In circle round her shining throne,  
Shooting her beams like silver threads,  
This, this is the alone. *Milton's Arcades.*  
Virtue could see to do what virtue would  
By her own radiant light, though fun and moon  
Were in the flat sea funk. *Milton.*  
I see the warlike host of heaven,  
Radiant in glittering arms and beamy pride,  
Go forth to succour truth below. *Milton.*
- To RA'DIATE. *v. n.* [*radiatus*, Lat.] To emit rays; to shine;  
to sparkle.  
Though with wit and parts their possessors could never en-  
gage God to send forth his light and his truth; yet now that  
revelation hath disclosed them, and that he hath been pleased  
to make them radiate in his word, men may recollect those  
scatter'd divine beams, and kindling with them the topics  
proper to warm our affections, enflame holy zeal. *Boyle.*  
Light radiates from luminous bodies directly to our eyes,  
and thus we see the sun or a flame; or it is reflected from  
other bodies, and thus we see a man or a picture. *Locke.*
- RA'DIATED. *adj.* [*radiatus*, Lat.] Adorned with rays.  
The radiated head of the phoenix gives us the meaning of  
a passage in Aulonius. *Addison.*
- RADIATION. *n. f.* [*radiatio*, Lat. *radiation*, Fr.]  
1. Beamy lustre; emission of rays.  
We have perspective houses, where we make demonstra-  
tions of all lights and radiations, and of all colours. *Bacon.*  
Should I say I liv'd darker than were true,  
Your radiation can all clouds subdue,  
But one; 'tis best light to contemplate you. *Donne.*  
2. Emission from a center every way.  
Sound paralleleth in many things with the light, and ra-  
diation of things visible. *Bacon's Natural History.*
- RA'DICAL. *adj.* [*radical*, Fr. from *radix*, Latin.]  
1. Primitive; original.  
The differences, which are secondary and proceed from  
these radical differences, are, plants are all figurate and de-  
terminate, which inanimate bodies are not. *Bacon.*  
Such a radical truth, that God is, springing up together  
with the effluence of the soul, and previous to all other thoughts,  
is not pretended to by religion. *Bentley.*  
2. Implanted by nature.  
The emission of the loose and adventitious moisture doth  
betray the radical moisture, and carrieth it for company. *Bac.*  
If the radical moisture of gold were separated, it might be  
contrived to burn without being consumed. *Wilkins.*  
The sun beams render the humours hot, and dry up the  
radical moisture. *Arbutnot.*  
3. Serving to origination.  
RADICALITY. *n. f.* [from *radical*.] Origination.  
There may be equivocal seeds and hermaphroditical prin-  
ciples, that contain the radicality and power of different  
forms; thus, in the seeds of wheat, there lieth obscurely the  
feminality of dandel. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- RA'DICALLY. *adv.* [from *radical*.] Originally; primitively.  
It is no easy matter to determine the point of death in in-  
sects, who have not their vitalities radically confined unto one  
part. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
These great orbs thus radically bright,  
Primitive founts, and origins of light  
Enliven worlds deny'd to human sight. *Prior.*
- RA'DICALNESS. *n. f.* [from *radical*.] The state of being  
radical.  
To RA'DICATE. *v. a.* [*radicatus*, from *radix*, Lat.] To  
root; to plant deeply and firmly.  
Meditation will radicate these seeds, fix the transient gleam  
of light and warmth, confirm resolutions of good, and give  
them a durable confidence in the soul. *Hammond.*  
Nor have we let fall our pen upon discouragement of un-  
belief, from radicated beliefs, and points of high pre-  
scription. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
If the object stays not on the sense, it makes not impression  
enough to be remembered; but if it be repeated there, it leaves  
plenty enough of those images behind it, to strengthen the  
knowledge of the object: in which radicated knowledge, if  
the memory confist, there would be no need of refreshing those  
atoms in the brain. *Glanvill's Defence.*
- RADICATION. *n. f.* [*radication*, Fr. from *radicate*.] The act  
of fixing deep.  
They that were to plant a church, were to deal with men  
of various inclinations, and of different habits of sin, and  
degrees of radication of those habits; and to each of these  
some proper application was to be made to cure their souls.  
*Hammond's Fundamentals.*
- RA'DICLE. *n. f.* [*radicula*, Fr. from *radix*, Lat.]  
Radicle is that part of the seed of a plant, which, upon its  
vegetation, becomes its root. *Quincy.*

# RAG

- RA'DISH. *n. f.* [*rædic*, Sax. *radis*, *raifort*, Fr. *raphanus*, Lat.]  
A root.  
The flower of the radish consists of four leaves, which are  
placed in the form of a cross; out of the flower-cup rises  
the pointal, which afterward turns to a pod in form of an  
horn, that is thick, spongy, and furnished with a double row  
of roundish seeds, which are separated by a thin membrane:  
there are five species; of that which is commonly cultivated  
in the kitchen-gardens for its root, there are several varie-  
ties; as the small topped, the deep-red, and the long topped  
stripped radish. *Miller.*
- RA'DIUS. *n. f.* [Latin.]  
1. The semi-diameter of a circle.  
2. A bone of the fore-arm, which accompanies the ulna from  
the elbow to the wrist.  
To RAFF. *v. a.* To sweep; to huddle; to take hastily with-  
out distinction.  
Their causes and effects I thus raff up together. *Carew.*  
To RA'FFLE. *v. n.* [*raffler*, to snatch, Fr.] To cast dice for  
a prize, for which every one lays down a stake.  
Letters from Hampstead give me an account, there is a late  
institution there, under the name of a raffing shop. *Taylor.*
- RA'FFLE. *n. f.* [*raffle*, Fr. from the verb.] A species of game  
or lottery, in which many stake a small part of the value of  
some single thing, in consideration of a chance to gain it.  
The toy, brought to Rome in the third triumph of Pompey,  
being a pair of tables for gaming, made of two precious stones,  
three foot broad, and four foot long, would have made a fine  
raffle. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
- RAFT. *n. f.* [probably from *ratia*, Latin.] A frame or float  
made by laying pieces of timber cross each other.  
Where is that son  
That floated with thee on the fatal raft. *Shakefp.*  
Fell the timber of yon lofty grove,  
And form a raft, and build the rising ship. *Pope.*
- RAFT. *part. pass.* of *raff* or *raff*. *Spenser.* Torn; rent.
- RA'FTER. *n. f.* [*ræfter*, Sax. *rafter*, Dutch; corrupted, says  
*Junius*, from *roof tree*.] The secondary timbers of the  
house; the timbers which are let into the great beam.  
The rafters of my body, bone,  
Being fill with you, the muscle, finew and vein;  
Which tile this house, will come again. *Donne.*  
Shepherd,  
I trust thy honest offer'd courtesy,  
Which oft is sooner found in lowly sheds  
With smoky rafters, than in tap'stry halls. *Milton.*  
On them the Trojans cast  
Stones, rafters, pillars, beams. *Denham.*  
From the East, a Belgian wind  
His hostile breath through the dry rafters sent;  
The flames impell'd. *Dryden.*  
The roof began to mount aloft,  
Aloft rose every beam and rafter,  
The heavy wall climb'd slowly after. *Swift's Miscel.*
- RA'FTERED. *adj.* [from *rafter*.] Built with rafters.  
No raft'ered roofs with dance and tabor found,  
No noon-tide bell invites the country round. *Pope.*
- RAG. *n. f.* [*Ryaccobe*, torn, Saxon; *gax*, Fr.]  
1. A piece of cloth torn from the rest; a tatter.  
Cows, hoods and habits, with their wearers tost,  
And flutter'd into rags. *Milton.*  
Rags are a great improvement of chalky lands. *Mortimer.*  
2. Any thing rent and tattered; worn out cloaths.  
Fathers that wear rags,  
Do make their children blind;  
But fathers that bear bags,  
Shall see their children kind. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
Worn like a cloth;  
Gnawn into rags by the devouring moth.  
Content with poverty, my foul I arm;  
And virtue, though in rags, will keep me warm. *Dryden.*  
3. A fragment of drels.  
He had first matter seen undrest;  
He took her naked all alone.  
Before one rag of form was on. *Hudibras, p. i.*
- RAGAMUFFIN. *n. f.* [from *rag* and *I know not what else*.]  
I have led my ragamuffins where they were pepper'd; there's  
not three of my hundred and fifty left alive; and they are  
for the town's end to beg during life. *Shakefp. Henry IV.*  
Shall we brook that paltry ass  
And feeble scoundrel, Hudibras,  
With that more paltry ragamuffin,  
Ralpho, vapouring and huffing. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
Attended with a crew of ragamuffins, he broke into his  
house, turned all things topsy-turvy, and then set it on  
fire. *Swift.*
- RAGE. *n. f.* [*rage*, Fr.]  
1. Violent anger; vehement fury.  
This tiger-footed rage, when it shall find  
The harm of unkind'd swiftness, will, too late,  
Tie leaden pounds to's heels. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*